

THE MACON BEACON

68th YEAR

MACON, MISSISSIPPI, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1917.

NUMBER 33

Better School Opportunities for Macon AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

To Parents in One-Teachers Districts Near Macon:

I am directing this letter to you from two motives. First, because I believe the future growth of our city school is dependent largely on the patronage of the country people who live within a reasonable distance of Macon. Second, because I believe that your school problem cannot be solved apart from consolidation with Macon. Especially is this true for those of you who live in thinly settled sections. It is in the interest of your children and the children of Macon, then, that I write this letter.

The one teacher school has served its day in Mississippi. The consolidation of rural schools has gone on with marked growth from year to year. This is said in no disparagement of any teacher who is teaching in a one-teacher school, for I know that some of the best teachers in our county taught this past year in these schools. But these teachers themselves will tell you how they were handicapped and how much better for your child it would have been had he been in a school where there are only two sections to the teacher and each teacher can become a specialist and get the kind of equipment needed for her particular work. In this county we have some of these consolidated schools where several schools are brought together and each teacher has no more than two or three grades. This works splendidly where you have the necessary population, but you who live in the prairies do not have the right kind of conditions for this kind of consolidation. If you brought the schools within fifty square miles into one district the chances are you would not have enough children to give you over one teacher, and where consolidation brings only one teacher it is clear that the only benefit is a better building and equipment and that the worst problem has not been solved at all.

Now, in the above paragraph I have briefly stated your problem. In the following I wish to state the school problem that confronts the Macon school.

This past session we enrolled only about one hundred and seventy white children from Macon. As you know our population is largely colored and therefore the taxes fall heavily on a few. The people in Macon have taxed themselves generously for their school. They have invested about forty thousand dollars in a school plant. The school has now thoroughly modern equipment; desks, boards, and furniture. It has a fifteen hundred-dollar sanitary waterworks equipment, a six-hundred-dollar library, a four hundred-dollar home economics equipment, a splendid hot air heating system, and a modern playground. But right at a time when our city and county is in the midst of the hardest "hard times" our future growth and our duty to the children who attend this school demand that we go on and make more improvements. This past year we added the home economics department and employed another teacher. Next year we must add typewriters to the high school equipment and refurnish our laboratory with scientific equipment and we must make a beginning in manual training work. Now our population is not increasing. It is decreasing, moving to the country rapidly, and so we are at a loss to know how to meet these modern demands for a broader and richer course of study, the lack of which will work a handicap on the children whose education we are responsible for. This is our problem.

I believe that the solution of your problem and our problem is the same. I believe that you without us will never solve your school problem and that we without your assistance and co-operation can never solve ours. Fortunately the good roads movement and the development of those industries that require you to come to Macon more often favor the sort of plan that must be worked. As conditions are now, I believe that the thing for

you to do is to make the Macon school your school and on behalf of the city officials, school trustees and our taxpayers I invite you to do this. A great many of you have already done this, and while we realize that we have not given you a perfect school we feel that those of you who have made our school your school have profited by it and we know we have profited by you and your children. This past session we enrolled about sixty pupils from districts outside of Macon. Nearly every month a fourth of our student body came from the country. Some of them came eight or nine miles. All of those who remained with us for the whole session made progress. We invite all you to send your children in next session.

Now, there are two plans which can be worked to accomplish this consolidation. One plan is to extend our school district, with your consent, to take you in and charge you the same tax levy that we make on ourselves. Our tax levy is about five mills for school purposes. If you should consolidate with other country schools you would have to pay this much and more. This in the end is the plan that I believe will be worked. It will be a saving to you and us.

One consolidated district in this county taxes itself about nine mills for school purposes. If we should take in enough territory we would have enough to make the necessary progress to give our children the best advantage and not raise the taxes above five mills. I believe we could lower them. I hope we can get together and put this plan into operation some day.

However, conditions may not be ripe for this step yet and there is another plan which we offer you. It is the plan which we have followed this year with the exception of a change in the paying for high school pupils. By provision of law it is possible in Mississippi for children of one district to attend the school of another with the consent of the trustees and the county superintendent is authorized to pay into the treasury of the school they attend the per capita cost of educating a child in the country. In view of the fact that we felt we could accommodate a few more children in each grade without extra teachers we threw open our doors to county pupils this year, and made no charges for any of the nine months provided a child enrolled in our school at the first of the session. Now this per capita amount was only a little over twenty dollars, though the actual cost of educating our children is away above that. However, we understood this when we made the offer.

But, later the county superintendent received instructions of a decision that no tuition could be paid for high school pupils. This cut our revenue short by about three hundred and fifty dollars and we received no pay whatever from any source for the county pupils above the eighth grade. In view of the fact that it costs us about sixty-five or seventy dollars per capita for those pupils above the eighth grade you can see our loss. Now our plan for next year is to open our doors to those county pupils below high school. It will cost you nothing to make our school your school for your children below the high school. For the high school pupils, those above the eighth grade, we are going to make a charge of three dollars fifty cents per month for the nine months, or thirty-one dollars and fifty cents for the session. This is about half, or less than half of what it costs us. These parents who live outside of Macon but pay taxes on city property will be given credit on their children's high school tuition for all they pay into the school fund.

We invite every one-teacher district within eight or nine miles to consolidate with us by this plan this next session. Now, we want to decide at once so we can have an accurate idea of what we must raise by taxation on city property. Our budget must be

Gen. Cavett's Official Staff.

Macon, Miss., May 20, 1917.
Dear Mr. Editor—Please do me the favor to publish my official and sponsor staff for the coming reunion at Washington, June 4 to 8.

Col. Will White, West Point, Miss., Adj. Gen.
Col. G. M. Robertson, Deerbrook, Miss., Inspector Gen.
Col. Frank White, 1st Mississippi Cavalry, Judge Advocate General.
Col. Walter Hubbard, Shuqualak, Miss., Chief of Artillery.
Rev. J. E. Jones, Macon, Miss., Chaplain General.
Maj. Robert Gamble, Tupelo, Miss., Maj. and Chief of Ordnance.
Col. T. S. Wilkins, Brooksville, Miss., Chief of Commissary.
Dr. J. C. Robert, Centerville, Miss., Surgeon General.
Maj. Jack Russell, Cedar Bluff, Miss., Maj. and Ensign.
Maj. Sam Cunningham, Bigbee Valley, Miss., Paymaster.

SPONSORIAL STAFF.
Miss Rosa Swan, Macon, Miss., sponsor.
Miss Mattie Poindexter, Ravine, Miss., Herald.

MAIDS OF HONOR.
Miss Danelle Yates, Macon, Miss.
Miss Kathaleen Wyatt, Booneville, Miss.
Miss Earline Brewer, Clarkdale, Miss.
Miss Thelma Townes, Glendora, Miss.
Miss Chita Beasley, Tennessee.

MATRONS OF HONOR.
Mrs. V. C. Cavett, Tupelo, Miss.
Mrs. Allie Swan, Macon, Miss.
Mrs. F. P. Gaines, A. & M. College, Miss.
Mrs. G. G. Snow, A & M. College, Miss.
Mrs. J. C. Cavett, Sunshine, Miss.
Mrs. Alva Parks, Brooksville, Miss.
Mrs. Will Shumaker, Hattiesburg, Miss.
Mrs. J. Q. Poindexter, Ravine, Miss.
Mrs. Sally Williams Bunkley, Washington, D. C.

CHAPERONES.
Mrs. Clara Fulton, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Fred Beall, Washington, D. C.
General Webb has suggested that as most of the Veterans are too old to assist much in the reunion I appoint some of the Sons of Veterans, Aide de Camp with rank of captain to aid in caring for the Veterans and Maids and Matrons of Honor. In accordance with the above I have appointed the following honored Sons of Veterans to serve on my staff and they will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Hon. John Sharp Williams, Miss.
Hon. B. G. Humphreys, Greenwood, Miss.
Hon. Webb Venable, Meridian, Miss.
Hon. Pat Harrison, Biloxi, Miss.
Hon. E. Candler, Corinth, Miss.
Hon. Tom Kimbrough, West Point, Miss.
Hon. J. Q. Poindexter, Ravine, Miss.
Capt. Frank P. Gaines, A. & M. College, Miss.
Capt. Calvin Sargent, Macon, Miss.
Capt. T. W. Crigler, Macon, Miss.
Capt. S. F. Cockrell, Macon, Miss.
Capt. Party Wilkins, Brooksville, Miss.
We have two Grand Army Veterans in our county, Captain Guler and Dr. Thompson and I appointed them both as honorary members of my staff and I want them to march down Pennsylvania Avenue carrying a Confederate flag with one of them on each side carrying "Old Glory" showing the world that the blue and the gray are standing together in everything that tends to the welfare of our common country.

Yours truly,
E. D. CAVETT,
Brig.-Gen. Com. 1st Brig. Miss. Div. U. C. V's.

Macon, Miss., May 23, 1917.

Editor—When I wrote and asked Hon. B. G. Humphreys if he would honor me by serving as Aide de Camp on my staff to help care for the Sponsors and Maids and Old Vets I received the following characteristic reply so you see "Our Ben" is equal to any occasion:

"Your letter of May 16th, received, and it was certainly a happy thought that suggested me as the proper escort for the maids and sponsors. Being only fifty-two years young, I feel thoroughly qualified to act in that capacity and, therefore, accept with great pleasure the appointment to a place on your staff.

Hoping to see you on that happy occasion and with best wishes."

I also requested Miss Margaret Wilson to do my brigade the honor of serving as Maid of Honor on this occasion

made up. Then, too, you must decide for you will have to select a teacher for next year if you are to keep your present one-teacher school. In deciding remember that the plan we offer makes you share every advantage our school offers. We want it to be your school too.

If you favor the plan and should like to accept it please write me at once. Give me the names of your children, their age and grade that I may plan to classify them for next session. I hope to hear favorably from you as I believe that the future problems of our school and of your educational advantages can be worked out in this way and by no other plan. Yours,

J. L. McMILLIN.

PATRIOTIC RALLY!

FOR NOXUBEE COUNTY

Lyceum, Saturday, June 2d, 2 p. m.

Music and speaking. Last day to volunteer for greatest war. Give Noxubee one volunteer unit.

You must go! Why not go with friends and not be sent with strangers.

and I received the following night message from her the other day. I am very sorry indeed that we could not have this charming lady in our parade on that day.

"Please pardon me for not answering your letter before now. I thought until today it had been answered long ago. Am not able to accept your kind invitation. My interest in the Red Cross demands my attention away from Washington during the Reunion."

Yours truly,
E. D. CAVETT,
Brig.-Gen. Com. 1st Brig. Miss. Div. U. C. V's.

Uncle Charley Heinrich Goes to Washington.

Among those who will leave tomorrow for Washington will be Uncle Charley Heinrich, who will take advantage of the rates to visit several nieces and nephews in that city and in Baltimore. The last time he was in Washington was at the inauguration of President Cleveland, when he sold out his store here and went there with the intention of going into business with his brother. He remained only a few months and returned to Macon. It will be remembered that Mr. Heinrich lost the first joint of a thumb while firing a salute in honor of Cleveland's election. When he came to Macon he was a republican in politics, but he has been a staunch democrat now for more than thirty years.

American Red Cross.

The Director of the Gulf Division of the American Red Cross sent a committee to Columbus, Miss., recently with authority to act as a preliminary organization to consider the establishment of a permanent chapter of the Red Cross.

The possible territory of the chapter is to include Clay, Monroe, Lowndes, Noxubee and Oktibbeha counties, with headquarters in Columbus.

A meeting has been called for Monday, June 4th, 2 p. m., in the city hall, Columbus, Miss. The committee wishes all persons interested in the Red Cross work to be present, and a full meeting is desired to consider how we may co-operate with each other, and with the division and national headquarters to do our share in supporting the great work for humanity.

A SURE CURE

A sure cure for your tire troubles is to install National Rubber Filler in your tires. Rides as easy as air, eliminates punctures and blowouts, and doubles the mileage of your tires. Call on the undersigned for the proof.

P. H. HUNTER, Agt.
J. E. CHANCELLOR, Ass't.
Macon, Miss.

Auto Accident.

A near-serious auto accident occurred Thursday morning about 8 o'clock when the Ford car, driven by Ethridge, the 14-year old son of Mr. J. A. Alsop, over turned in a ditch one mile east of Macon on the Cooksville old road. The driver lost control of the car and ran it off a small bridge, throwing out the occupants, Ethridge and his young sister, Edna. The former was considerably bruised and a cut on his leg caused by the jagged edges of the broken windshield, about six inches long, that required several stitches to close. Edna escaped with several bruises. The car was considerably damaged.

Notice! Telephone Subscribers.

On and after June 1st, 1917, subscribers on the following lines will be charged at the rate of \$2.50 for service: Paulette line, Fairfield line, Short Memphis line, Taylor line. For any trouble or complaint please notify Mr. W. J. Satterwhite, manager of the Cumberland Telephone Co., at Macon.

PAULETTE TELEPHONE CO.

Furniture Repaired and Packed at Shelton's Cash Store.

Be Sure to Register Tuesday, June 5th

REGISTRARS FOR COUNTY.

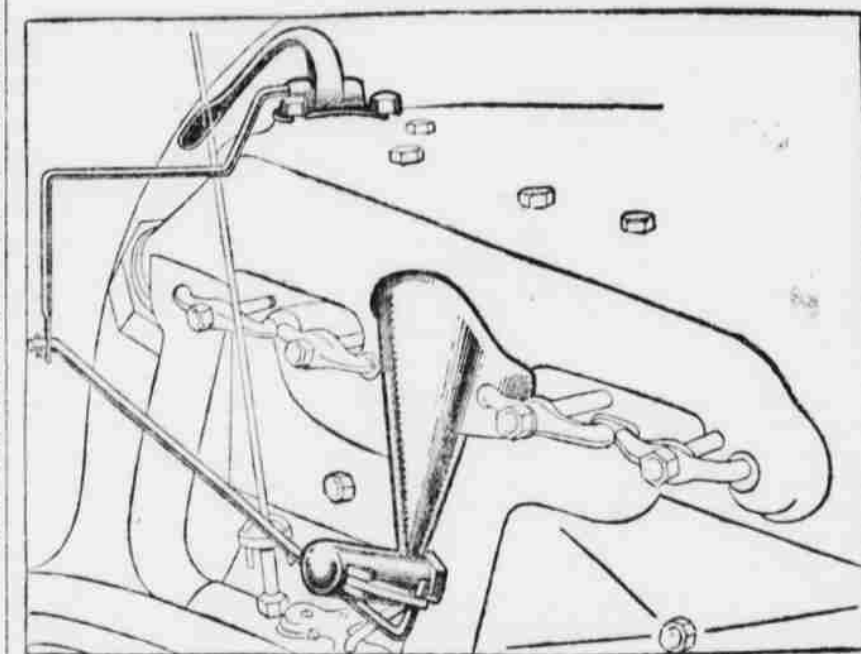
Deerbrook—J. M. Robertson, W. D. Bell.
Cliftonville—U. W. Mullins, J. L. Patten, W. S. Mullins.
Prairie Point—W. A. Cheatham, W. V. Stewart, G. S. Dinsmore.
Center Point—J. L. Ormsby, W. E. Skinner, W. R. Bush.
Cooksville—J. R. Sparkman, W. T. Britten.
Paulette—J. E. Robbins, T. E. Wilkerson.
Macon—C. M. Scales, Chas. Strong, A. E. Mobley, Jas. G. Chandler.
Shuqualak—J. S. Steele, W. D. Mosley, G. C. CLOPTON.
Sumerville—R. F. Watkins, J. J. Whittle.
Hoshoqua—T. H. Hurst, H. W. Jer-nagan.
Mashulaville—Chas. St. John, S. T. Hammock, N. A. Watkins.
Lyn Creek—D. L. Archer, D. B. Cade, J. K. Triplett.
Fairview—J. O. Cook, T. J. Wilkins, Jr., J. L. Carpenter.
Brooksville—J. N. McMorris, Jao. W. Wilkins, W. B. Bell.

To the Public.

I am better prepared than ever to do good and quick work. If you need a good well with full supply of water, write me.
R. C. STONE,
Macon, Miss.

STOP WASTING GASOLINE

25 to 50 per cent. more mileage per gallon guaranteed



Price \$6.75 put on car. If not satisfactory will take off and return money.

W. M. CAVETT, Macon, Miss.